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STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 46/42 of 6 December 1991, entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region", the General Assembly, inter alia, invited all Member States, as well as the relevant regional organizations and subregional groupings, to communicate to the Secretary-General concrete ideas and suggestions concerning this issue, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

2. Pursuant to that resolution, the Secretary-General, on 14 February 1992, addressed a note verbale to all States requesting their views on the question of strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the resolution.

3. As at 31 August 1992, five Governments had replied to the Secretary-General's note verbale. Replies and notifications received subsequently will be published as addenda to this report.

II. SUMMARY OF THE DEBATE ON THE QUESTION OF STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION DURING THE FORTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4. For the most part, States addressing the issue of strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region pointed out once again that Mediterranean security was closely linked to security in Europe and the Middle East, and to international peace and security. Several delegations noted that strengthening of security in the Mediterranean region was a comprehensive process which should include parallel steps to settle conflict situations and eliminate hotbeds of conflict, strengthen trust between Mediterranean and other States, and develop fruitful cooperation in such fields as economic development, protection of the environment, transport, tourism, culture, science and technology.

5. A number of delegations expressed their grave concern at the continuing tensions in the Mediteranean region, and particularly at the tragic developments in Yugoslavia. They called for an immediate cessation of all military activities in that country and for a peaceful solution in keeping with the procedures and principles of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

6. Some speakers deplored the continuing presence of foreign military and naval forces in the Mediterranean region and called for their withdrawal. Delegations also spoke on the necessity to find just and lasting solutions to the Palestinian question and to the situation in Cyprus.

7. Several delegations emphasized the primary role of the Mediterranean States in strengthening security and cooperation in the region and the

necessity of giving a "Mediterranean dimension" to the process of strengthening of security and cooperation in Europe. Most speakers reiterated their support for the proposal made by France, Italy, Portugal and Spain concerning the possibility of convening a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region. They also expressed the opinion that such a conference might serve as an effective instrument for safeguarding common interests and improving relations among the countries of the region.

8. A number of States noted with appreciation the emerging dialogue between the countries of the Western Mediterranean, and expressed hope that this process would further develop in the future.

III. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

CAMEROON

[Original: French]

[5 July 1992]

The Government of the Republic of Cameroon:

(a) Welcomes this initiative, which contributes to the expansion of the scope of confidence- and security-building measures and measures to promote development at the regional level as advocated by the World Disarmament Campaign;

(b) Urges States in the Mediterranean subregion to combine their efforts, currently dispersed among various bodies (including the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Ministerial Meeting of the Western Mediterranean Countries), in a common forum for discussion in order to enhance their effectiveness;

(c) To this end, encourages the initiative regarding the holding of a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean, which would bring together States from the two shores of the Mediterranean Sea around the negotiating table;

(d) Notes with satisfaction that the parties concerned do not dissociate the search for security and the promotion of cooperation for economic and social development;

(e) Emphasizes the need for the African countries bordering on the Mediterranean not to separate their needs for security and development from those relating to the general context of the African continent.

CYPRUS

[Original: English]

[10 August 1992]

1. It is recognized that the Mediterranean region cannot be seen in a geographical vacuum. Positive developments world wide, particularly in Europe, undoubtedly affect the Mediterranean region. Similarly, tension and conflicts in one region have a ripple effect on the other. The end of the cold war and the transitional period that the global political architecture finds itself in makes even more imperative the urgent need for a collective security system to foster international peace and security.

2. General Assembly resolution 46/42 reaffirms that security in the Mediterranean is closely linked to that of Europe and to international peace and security in general. This recognition appeared in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), adopted at Helsinki in 1975, and was reaffirmed again in the Helsinki CSCE Summit Declaration of July 1992, which states that "the changes which have taken place in Europe are relevant to the Mediterranean region and that, conversely, economic, social, political and security developments in that region have a direct bearing on Europe." 1/

3. It is also recognized that for security and cooperation to exist in the Mediterranean, it is the responsibility of all States to conform in their actions to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as to the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

4. The Republic of Cyprus reiterates the importance it attaches to promoting and enhancing security in the region. In this regard, it reaffirms its support for the establishment of a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean and for the intensification of consultations with all qualifying States. To this end, the growing widespread support for its convening is welcomed. The non-aligned countries of the Mediterranean continue to contribute significantly to promoting security and cooperation in the Mediterranean. This fact was recognized at the Tenth Ministerial Meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Accra in September 1991. The Republic of Cyprus welcomes also the decisions taken by the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Western Mediterranean Countries, held at Algiers in October 1991.

5. The Republic of Cyprus wishes, however, to express its continued concern at the persistent conflicts and tensions affecting the region, which

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1/ A/47/361-S/24370, annex, para. 37.

constitute serious threats to peace and security not only to the Mediterranean region but to international peace and security in general. It emphasizes, therefore, the urgent need to resolve in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, and on the basis of the Charter, the Middle East conflict, the question of Palestine, the situation in Lebanon and the continued military occupation of part of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus following the Turkish invasion in 1974.

6. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus reaffirms its commitment to promote the Mediterranean region as a zone of security, peace and cooperation, free from conflict and confrontation, and to enhance confidence- and security-building and disarmament in the region. In this regard, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus reiterates its commitment to the demilitarization of the Republic of Cyprus upon the withdrawal of the Turkish occupation forces and illegal settlers. Demilitarization can only contribute positively and significantly to peace and security in the region, in Europe as well as globally.

7. Today, the international community is fully engaged in promoting and implementing the purposes and principles of the Charter. It is therefore imperative for the international community to lay a solid foundation, through just and peaceful settlement of persistent problems in the region, for respecting and safeguarding the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries and peoples of the Mediterranean and for full adherence to the principles of non-use of force or threat of use of force and the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on a universal basis.

EGYPT

[Original: English]

[22 July 1992]

Strengthening of peace and security in the Mediterranean is a major concern of Egyptian foreign policy. Egypt supports all efforts that are being made towards realizing this objective and is an active participant in some of them. It is within this context and with a view to harmonizing such efforts that President Hosni Mubarak, during his speech before the European Parliament in Strasbourg in November 1991, proposed the establishment of a Mediterranean forum that would serve as a focal point of dialogue and interaction between opinion makers, both officials and non-officials, professionals and intellectuals. The purpose of this proposal is to ensure interaction of the various viewpoints concerning security and cooperation in the Mediterranean in order to arrive at a harmonious conceptual framework that would facilitate agreement on a common approach towards realizing this objective. Egypt is in the process of undertaking the necessary measures to implement this proposal and looks forward to assistance from all interested States and organizations in this regard.

GERMANY

[Original: English]

[23 March 1992]

The Gulf conflict has thrown the importance of the security of the entire Mediterranean region into stark relief. The stability of the region is marred by disparities in levels of development of the coastal countries. The Federal Government welcomes any initiative apt to promote the dialogue and cooperation in the Mediterranean region and finds the 5 + 5 process, which has already attained a degree of relative institutionalization, particularly deserving of its interest. All the more, it regrets the stagnation that has entered the talks. The idea of extending the success of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to include the Mediterranean region is closely linked to the success of the Middle East peace process. Therefore, the project of a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean as proposed by Italy and Spain woud only seem meaningful after the peace talks have been concluded successfully.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

[Original: English]

[30 July 1992]

As of now, the Government of the United Kingdom has no specific ideas or suggestions to make on this issue. However, it will continue to keep the matter under review and submit for the Secretary-General's consideration any suggestions or ideas that may be of value.